Effect of melting glaciers

1464. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the first report on melting glaciers and their impact by Sagarmatha, rivers in India are going to shrink in 40 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Britain's Department of International Development gave a decade-by-decade analysis of rivers over the next 100 years; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to preserve thi3 precious natural resource through water harvesting and water recharging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In the Executive Summary of the report on the project "Snow and Glacier Aspects of Water Resources Management in The Himalaya (SAGARMATHA)" published by Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK, there is a reference to accelerating rate of retreat which according to report has led to speculation by some experts that Himalayan Glaciers will disappear within the next 40 years as a result of global warming. However, the Executive Summary of the report concludes that "according to the model results, for many areas, the catastrophic water shortages forecast by some experts are unlikely to happen for many decades; if at all."

(b) The report has presented future decadal variations. However, the report itself states that, these result should not be considered definitive.

(c) Water being a State subject, the schemes relating to rain water harvesting and ground water recharge are implemented by the respective State Governments. However, Government of India also promotes rain water harvesting and ground water recharge through various schemes.

Erosion of ground water resources

1465. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the danger of unreetircted exploitation of water resources; and